

Name: _____ Date: _____

RHETORICAL DEVICES

1. Allegory:

Example #1: fables in which personified animals are used to teach lessons of human conduct (e.g. “The Tortoise and the Hare”)

Example #2: # _____

2. Denotation:

Example #1: “House” denotes the place where a person lives.

Example #2: # _____

3. Connotation:

Example #1: “Home” connotes intimacy, privacy, coziness.

Example #2: # _____

4. Hyperbole:

Example #1: “My opponent in the wrestling ring was a hundred feet tall and made of concrete.”

Example #2: # _____

5. Imagery:

Example #1: The beauty of the daisy is conveyed by using imagery such as “a silver shield with boss of gold”.

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Example #2: # _____

6. Repetition:

Example #1: “It was a strange night, a hushed night, a moonless and restless night...”

Example #2: # _____

7. Analogy:

Example #1: Comparing an anthill to an urban centre helps to convey the fact that anthills are heavily populated, busy, and have regular patterns of movement.

Example #2: # _____

8. Anecdote:

Example #1: “Let me tell you about the time...”

Example #2: # _____

9. Abnormal Word Order:

Example #1: Normal word order (subject-verb): “The actor’s worst nightmare stood laughing at him from the shadows.” Abnormal word order (verb-subject): “Laughing at him from the shadows stood the actor’s worst nightmare.”

Example #2: # _____

10. Balanced Sentence:

Example #1: “Silence is as deep as eternity; speech is as shallow as time.”

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Example #2: # _____

11. Contrasting Balanced Sentence:

Example #1: “Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more.”

Example #2: # _____

12. Climactic Word Order:

Example #1: “The young politician’s career rise was meteoric: after beginning as a municipal councillor, she became mayor, and three years later a Member of Parliament.”

Example #2: # _____

13. Parallel Structure:

Example #1: “Government of the people, by the people, for the people...”

Example #2: # _____

14. Periodic Sentence:

Example #1: “Whether playing a young, wild adventurer, a fugitive from the law, or a U.S. President, there is one actor whose films always make money – Harrison Ford.

Example #2: # _____

15. Reversals:

Example #1: “Ask not what your country can do for you; as what you can do for your country.”

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Example #2: # _____

16. Rhetorical Question:

Example #1: “Can anyone deny that the microchip has revolutionized communication?”

Example #2: # _____

17. Sentence Fragment:

Example #1: “A cold room. A lonely room. A bare room. No place to spend twenty years of a life.”

Example #2: # _____

18. Understatement:

Example #1: “Bruce Willis’ on-screen characters frequently find themselves in a bit of a jam.”

Example #2: # _____

19. Alliteration:

Example #1: “As Frankenstein, Boris Karloff rambled, raged, and roared.”

Example #2: # _____

20. Onomatopoeia:

Example #1: “Today’s films are as likely to feature the bleeps and buzzes of computers as the chirps of birds. Cascading waterfalls have been replaced by humming machines and whirring laser swords.”

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Example #2: # _____

21. Allusion:

Example #1: “Her roles in films such as *E. T.* and *Irreconcilable Differences* made Drew Barrymore the Shirley Temple of the eighties.

Example #2: # _____

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SECOND EXAMPLES

Write the number of the sentence below in the empty space beside the “Example #2” prompt that best describes this example above.

1. Yo’ Mama so fat that when she hangs around the house, *she hangs around the house!*
2. Your short term memory is like the RAM in a computer; it records the information in front of you right now.
3. The violinist Dave Swarbrick was amused one day to find his obituary printed in the *Daily Telegraph*. Appraised of the mistake, the paper printed the following retraction: “Mr. Swarbrick, who was reported dead in yesterday’s edition, is recovering well.”
4. “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.” – Dickens
5. “If a free society cannot save the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich.” – J. F. K.
6. Mary likes bicycling, swimming, and hiking.
7. Isn’t it a bit unnerving that Doctors call what they do “practice”?
8. Usain Bolt moves quite quickly.
9. It’s not the dog in the fight, it’s the fight in the dog.
10. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
11. In George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*, farm animals are used to portray the downside of communism.
12. Once by the Pacific...the clouds were low and hairy...like locks blown forward in the gleam of eyes.
13. When we talk about the King of Rock and Roll, there can only be one response – Elvis Presley.
14. To the Westward moving settlers, the Alleghany Mountains proved a huge barrier.
15. The young ball player moved from Rookie ball to Triple A to the Major Leagues all in the course of one season.
16. “I said over and over and over again, won’t you be my girl” – The Dave Clark 5
17. Broke. Stoned. Homeless. Not what I went to University for.

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18. In the yard, the buzz saw snarled and rattled, while in a nearby pond, the little green frog said “ribbit ribbit.”
19. The Blue Jays Jose Bautista looks like a new Hank Aaron for the 21st century.
20. Child – a young person.
21. Brat – a young person you wouldn’t want to have dinner with.